



Northwest Coordination Center
150 SW Harrison Street Suite 400
Portland, OR 97201
503-808-2720
<http://www.nwccweb.us>

July 23, 2015

To: NW Geographic Area Dispatch Centers

From: Dan O'Brien; NWCC Center Manager

RE: Short-Haul Extraction Helicopter Use, Placement, and Ordering Procedures

Discussion

Unless otherwise specified, in the NW Geographic Area the term "short-haul helicopter" refers to a Type 3 helicopter and crew having the specialized capability for evacuating injured personnel from a remote site via a specialized line attached to the helicopter's airframe. Available helicopters may vary in number, make and model of aircraft. In all cases, a helicopter's principle mission will be firefighting/initial attack. Short-haul is an additional crew and aircraft capability that can be utilized as needed.

Aircraft Positioning

Given that firefighting is the principle mission, short-haul helicopters will be assigned to active incidents or pre-positioned at a local unit in support of initial attack. Within this specification, the helicopters will be intentionally assigned so that short-haul capability can be readily available across a broad expanse of the Geographic Area, ideally in those areas where extraction potential is perceived to be greatest. Maps depicting current short-haul helicopter locations and 100 mile effective response circles can be found online:

- NWCC Situation Page Interactive [Current Situation Map](#); and
- NW MAC Page [Short-Haul Extraction Helicopter Map](#).

Ordering a Short-Haul Helicopter

- Refer to online maps for the short-haul helicopter within effective range of your incident.
- Each helicopter location has an associated table that will provide the helicopter tail number and the name and phone number of the hosting dispatch center. Ordering Units within effective range may order a short-haul helicopter by placing a call direct to the hosting dispatch center.

Ordering Units or Incidents must supply the necessary information to facilitate an emergency response. At a minimum, include the following items, which are found on the standard aircraft dispatch card:

- Incident Name;
- Incident Air-to-Air frequency;
- Incident air-to-ground frequency;
- Incident geographic location and/or latitude/longitude;
- Incident Ground Contact;
- Other aircraft on the incident;
- Hazards.



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- **A request for short-haul will be processed by the host dispatch center as a priority emergency response.**
- **The host dispatch center will contact NWCC (503-808-2720) whenever a short-haul mission is launched and follow-up with a “commit” message to all NW Dispatch Centers.**
- **NWCC will notify all NW Dispatch Centers and update the appropriate web products in a timely manner whenever there is a short-haul resource status or location change.**

Flight Hours and Response Times

Short-haul extraction can occur only during daylight flight hours, during which an estimated 30 minute response time is observed. Night operations are not possible.

IMPORTANT!

If your incident is NOT within effective range of a short-haul helicopter, good judgment must be applied as other alternatives, such as calling 9-1-1 and the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, may provide more timely patient evacuation and subsequent care. Reference the [2015 Emergency Helicopter Extraction](#) Source List for additional information on alternate extraction options.

Short-haul extraction procedures are not valid for use with National Guard medevac or other extraction and hoist resources. If National Guard aircraft are activated, letters addressing extraction procedures or medevac ordering will be issued and posted to the NWCC NW MAC webpage under the [Emergency Medical Evacuation](#) heading.

For questions regarding the coordination of short-haul ordering or mobilization, please contact Dan O'Brien (dlobrien@blm.gov) at 503-808-2732. For questions on management of interagency short-haul helicopters or aircraft capability, please contact Aaron Schoolcraft (aschoolcraft@fs.fed.us) at 503-808-2359.